



**GOVERNMENT OF KERALA**

**Abstract**

Health & Family Welfare Department - COVID-19 - Sabarimala Pilgrimage 2021 - 2022 - Action Plan by Health Department - Approved - Orders Issued.

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**HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE (F) DEPARTMENT**

G.O.(Rt)No.2363/2021/H&FWD Dated,Thiruvananthapuram, 30/10/2021

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Read 1 Letter No P.H.5/47543/2021/DHS dated 10.08.2021 from the Director of Health Services.

2 Minutes of the Meeting Chaired by Hon'ble Chief Minister held on 17.10.2021.

**ORDER**

In view of the ongoing Covid 19 pandemic, Government are pleased to issue the action plan attached as annexure in accordance with the Government of India and State specific Covid Protocol for the smooth conduct of Sabarimala Makaravilakku Festival 2021- 22.

(By order of the Governor)  
Rajan Namdev Khobragade  
Principal Secretary

To:

The Principal Secretary, Devaswom Department.

The State Mission Director - National Health Mission.

The Director of Health Services, Thiruvananthapuram.

The Director of Medical Education, Thiruvananthapuram.

Revenue (Devaswom) Department

Health & Family Welfare (G) Department

Principal Accountant General (A&E/Audit) Kerala.

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Forwarded /By order

Section Officer

## Annexure

### **ACTION PLAN FOR SABARIMALA PILGRIMAGE 2021-22**

Government have always given importance to the health of Sabarimala pilgrims. Pilgrims may experience palpitation, chest pain, breathlessness and even myocardial infarction while proceeding 5 kms from Pampa to Sannidhanam.

The Action Plan is prepared with the objective of

- a) Protecting health of pilgrims
- b) Protecting health of Devaswom and district administration staff
- c) Protecting health of Health, LSGD and Police department staff
- d) Control and prevention of COVID
- e) Control and prevention of other communicable diseases

During the pilgrim period the following instructions shall be strictly followed by all the concerned.

1. At State level, Director of Health Services will supervise the overall activities in Sabarimala. The Additional Director (Public Health), Nodal officers and an assistant Nodal officer will assist Director of Health Services to manage the activities at the State level. At district level, DMO(H) Pathanamthitta will oversee District with the support of District Surveillance officer and District Nodal Officer.
2. Mandates for pilgrims and Staff deployed
  - 2 doses of vaccination (with certificate) and RTPCR done with in 72 hours.
  - In view of Covid 19 pandemic, all pilgrims with co morbidities and history of Covid 19 positivity may avoid the visit to Sabarimala and trekking to Sannidhanam within 3 months of cure from Covid 19 due to higher risk of **cardiomyopathy**.
  - The trekking route from Pamba to Sannidhanam is limited to Swamy Ayyappan road. Usage of '*Kanana patha*' is restricted to the tribal people

as in the previous year. This will enable to avoid the more strenuous route of trekking for pilgrims there by reducing risk of emergencies due to climb.

- *Graded inflow of pilgrims 25000 / Day.*
- *Depending on the 1<sup>st</sup> Fortnight study– further decisions shall be taken.*

### 3. Medical Services provided

- The treatment facilities and services arranged in Pathanamthitta district as the core area and extending to nearby districts like Kottayam, Alappuzha and Idukki.
- The services provided will include OP treatment, IP treatment, Anti snake venom and anti rabies treatment, Intensive cardiac care clinics (CCUs), Operation theatres, Oxygen parlours, Mobile clinics, Referral transport facilities (Ambulance), Public health activities, Trauma care services, IEC BCC.
- Oxygen Parlours / emergency medical centres will be opened at 16 different places from Pampa to Sannidhanam, with the help of District collector, Travancore Devaswom Board and Ayyappa Seva Sangham.
- Facilities for first aid, blood pressure checking, supply of Oxygen, Defibrillator will be available at these centres.
- Necessary medicines will be provided by KMSCL as per indent from DMO(H), Pathanamthitta and will be transported to the hospitals.
- 24 hour ambulance services to transport the pilgrims referred to higher centres, free of cost to General hospital Pathanamthitta and Medical College, Kottayam will also be arranged.
- In unfortunate cases of death of a pilgrim, facilities to transport the dead body to any district within Kerala or even to nearby states will be available.
- All the necessary arrangements including setting and cleaning the hospitals, placing ventilators will be ensured.

### 4. Human resource deployment

- a. Government Dispensaries will be functioning at Sannidhanam and Pampa from 1<sup>st</sup> November and the rest from 2021 November 15<sup>th</sup>.
- b. Additional staff including doctors will be posted at PHC Nilakkal, GD Charalmedu, CHC Erumeli and General Hospital, Pathanamthitta.

Cardiologists from Medical Education department will be posted at dispensaries with ICU facilities at Govt Hospital Sannidhanam and Govt Hospital Pampa. Pulmonologists from Medical Education department will be posted at GD Sannidhanam and GD Pampa.

- c. Duty slots will be allocated to District Medical Officers, who should post the concerned staff to the duty station.
- d. The list of medical officers, specialist doctors and para medical staff are detailed in Table 1 and 2 given below. At a duty period of 7 days, 2 Cardiologists, 2 Pulmonologists, 5 Physicians, 5 Orthopedicians, 4 General Surgeons, 3 Anesthetist, 12 Assistant Surgeons are required if all the duty stations are operational.
- e. Cardiologists/Pulmonologists need to be posted from medical colleges and all other staff may be posted from each district on a rotation basis. Among the paramedical staff, staff nurses, lab technician and pharmacist may be taken from covid brigade from Pathanamthitta, Kottayam and Idukki. Also, the para medical staff such as staff nurses, Pharmacists, lab technicians and radiologists may be utilized from medical colleges too as the requirement cannot be met entirely from DHS institutions.
- f. All these centres will have 24 hour functioning facilities to help pilgrims.
- g. 24 hour functioning 16 emergency medical centres at high risk areas along trekking routes.
- h. Ambulance network & mobile medical units.

**Treatment facility arrangements at the following places shall be ensured**

- a. CHC Erumely
- b. CHC Ranni Perunad
- c. DH Kozhenchery
- d. THQH Ranni
- e. Pandalam Valiyakoyikkal Kshetram Idathavalam
- f. GH Pathanamthitta
- g. GH Adoor
- h. TH Mundakayam
- i. GH Kanjirapally
- j. CHC Vandiperiyar

- k. PHC Kumili  
 l. DH Chengannur  
 m. Special Aid Post in Chengannur Railway Station, Mahadeva Temple

**Table 1**

<b>SABARIMALA FESTIVAL 2021-22</b>							
<b>List of Medical Officers posted at Sabarimala for special duty from 15.11.2021 to 21.01.2022 per batch</b>							
<b>11 batches-7 days each</b>							
Posting stations	Cardiologist	Pulmonologist	Physician	Orthopedician	General Surgeon	Anaesthetist	Assistant Surgeon
GD Sannidhanam	1	1	1	1	0	0	2
OT Sannidhanam	0	0	0	0	1	1	0
Special dispensary Charalmedu	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
GD Pampa	1	1	1	1	1	1	0
GD Nilakkal	0	0	1	1	0	0	3
GD Erumeli	0	0	1	1	1	0	0
GH Pathanamthitta	0	0	1	1	1	1	1
<b>Per Batch</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>8</b>

**Table 2**

<b>SABARIMALA FESTIVAL 2021-22</b>						
<b>List of Paramedical staff posted at Sabarimala for special duty from 15.11.2021 to 21.01.2022 per batch</b>						
<b>5 batches - 15 days each</b>						
Posting stations	Lab Technician	Pharmacist	Staff nurse	Nursing assistant	Hospital attendant	Radiographer
GD Sannidhanam	2	3	4	2	4	2
OT Sannidhanam	0	0	2	2	2	0

Special dispensary Charalmedu	0	1	2	1	2	0
GD Pampa	2	4	5	2	5	2
GD Nilakkal	2	2	3	2	2	0
GD Erumeli	0	3	3	2	2	0
GH Pathanamthitta	0	0	0	0	0	0
Per Batch	<b>6</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>4</b>

**Depending upon the 1st Fortnight study, further instructions will be issued in December 2021**

As per the requirement additional staff including doctors will be posted at

- GD Sannidhanam
- SD Charalmedu
- GD Pampa
- PHC Nilakkal
- CHC Erumeli
- GH Pathanamthitta

## 5. Ambulance Deployed

Ambulances from each district will be posted to sabarimala. The districts are given permission to hire ambulances as a replacement for those which are posted for sabarimala duty.

## 6. Mass media activities

Messages for pilgrims (including in vernacular language for pilgrims from outside the states) will be made and circulated to all districts for dissemination at all places where pilgrims visit frequently. Pre requisites for sabarimala visit are to be informed to pilgrims of neighbouring states so that last minute rush at the testing centres can be avoided.

## 7. Public health activities

- a) Any communicable disease identified will follow the procedure of IDSP Reporting
- b) Notifiable diseases will be reported at the earliest to State IDSP Cell.
- c) Consolidated report to be submitted to nodal officer sabarimala and state IDSP cell by the end of the Sabarimala season

- d) Vector control activities to be monitored by DVC units
- e) The stock of Doxycycline, anti-snake venom will be ensured
- f) The water supplied at Sannidhanam, and premises should be adequately chlorinated
- g) Soap should be made available at all toilets and eateries.
- h) Notices and instructions to the pilgrims should be given in Malayalam, Tamil, Telugu, Kannada, Hindi and English.
- i) People who provide services or work in all places where pilgrims are expected to arrive, including Sannidhanam/Edathavalam (commercial establishments, hotels, etc.) must be vaccinated with two doses of the vaccine. This shall be applicable to media personnel also.

#### 8. Health advisory

Health Advisory on Sabarimala pilgrimage in the context of COVID-19 No.31/F2/2020/H&FWD dated 28.10.2020 is applicable for this year also.

#### 9. Treatment Plan

Treatment Plan as in G.O. (Rt) No.2105/2020/H&FWD dated 10/11/2020 from the previous year is applicable for this year also.